

2012 SEASON RECAP

MANAGER OF THE YEAR - The 2012 Albion Tigers played 28 games and won 24 of them, including a 16-2 record in the Southeast Section and a second straight trip to the sectional final. At the helm was eighth-year skipper Ben Towns, who was named HTL Manager of the Year at the Home Talent League banquet on Sunday night in Waunakee. In Ben's eight years with the Tigers, Albion has 95 Southeast Section victories and six playoff appearances, including 2011's run to the Final Four.

POSTSEASON VICTORY! - The Albion Tigers defeated Jefferson in a Southeast Section semi-final Sunday by a score of 4-1. Jefferson had won the previous two playoff matchups between these teams (2004 and 2009) but on this day Matt Buhrow and his teammates were not to be denied. Buhrow threw a complete game gem, allowing only one unearned run on three hits. Ben Everson's bases-loaded single in the fourth plated Ryan Stace and Jesse Appel to give Albion a 2-1 lead, and Zach Nelson provided some insurance in the eighth with a groundball through a drawn-in infield to score Jim Eastman and Tim Houfe.

LEADING HITTERS - The Southeast Section has announced their leading hitters. Last year's champ Aaron Laskowski keeps his spot in the top five, joined at .408 by teammate Ryan Stace. 14-year veteran Jesse Appel continues to add to his legend, making his second straight and fourth overall top ten at .388.

ALBION WRAPS UP 15-1 SEASON - The Albion Tigers tuned up for the postseason on Sunday with a 10-1 defeat of McFarland. Pitchers Matt Buhrow, Ben Everson, Bryant Schulte, and Adam Gregory combined to allow three hits and no earned runs as the Tigers beat the Muskies for the fifth straight time. Seven different Tigers recorded RBIs, while four players (Josh Eastman, Aaron Laskowski, Jesse Appel, and Marty Johnson) each had two hits for Albion.

TIGER ALL-STARS!! - The Albion Tigers were well-represented at last night's Home Talent League All-Star game, where the East/Southeast squad lost 5-4 to the combined team from the North and West sections. Albion shortstop Aaron Laskowski singled in his two plate appearances, while ace Matt Buhrow pitched an inning for the E/SE squad, which was managed by Albion's Ben Towns and Jim Eastman.

TIGERS CLINCH DIVISION AND HOME-FIELD - Jesse Appel's two-out RBI single plated Aaron Laskowski in the bottom of the 13th inning to give the Tigers an 8-7 win over old rival Stoughton, ensuring that the road to the Southeast Section title and the Home Talent League Final Four will go through Albion. Laskowski went 5x6 to lead the Tigers, while Ryan Stace (2x6), Jamie Shelley (3x5), Appel (4x7), Marty Johnson (2x5), and Josh Eastman (2x5) all contributed to Albion's hit total of 18 for the game. Ben Everson notched 3 strikeouts in 4.1 scoreless innings of relief to earn the victory, which pushed Albion to 14-1 and their first division title since 2009.

SCHULTE, GREGORY LEAD TIGERS TO NL WIN - Bryant Schulte pitched five innings and had a pair of 2-run singles, and Adam Gregory was 3x4 with a homer and 5 RBIs as the Albion Tigers rolled to a 15-3 Eastern Night League victory over the Waterloo Firemen. The Tigers scored in every inning and had 15 hits, including multiple hits from Schulte, Gregory, Jim Eastman, Marty Johnson, and Aaron Laskowski. Jesse Appel added a 3-run double in the seventh. Ben Everson pitched two perfect innings of relief for Albion, now 8-1 in ENL play.

TIGERS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT! - Ben Everson had a full-count, two-out RBI single in the seventh inning to push the Albion Tigers to a 6-4 win and a Southeast Section playoff spot on Sunday against the Utica Association. Albion is now 13-1, while Utica falls to 10-4 in their quest to grab the second playoff spot from the West Division. Albion built a 4-0 lead with an RBI single in the second from Jesse Appel and a three-run fifth inning that included RBIs from Kyle Johnson and Trevor Kinnett. After Utica tied the game with a four-run seventh, Everson delivered Johnson with the lead run to give the Tigers a 5-4 lead, and Zach Nelson gave them a little insurance when he singled home Kinnett to make it 6-4. Albion got another great outing from starting pitcher Matt Buhrow, who threw seven innings to earn his eighth win on the year. Josh Eastman came on with two innings of scoreless relief.

TIGERS BEAT GRAYS 9-6 - The Albion Tigers beat the Lake Mills Grays 9-6 on Friday night to clinch a top-two finish in the Eastern Night League standings. The win assures that Albion will host a first-round ENL playoff game the week of August 9, likely against Fort Atkinson or Cottage Grove. The teams traded runs early, with single Lake Mills runs sandwiched around Adam Gregory's RBI double in the home first. Lake Mills held a 2-1 lead until the bottom of the third, when RBIs from Ryan Stace and Jamie Shelley gave Albion a 4-2 lead. The lead grew on Aaron Laskowski and Zach Nelson RBIs in the fourth, Tim Houfe's bases-loaded walk in the fifth, and Casey Schmeling's RBI single in the sixth to make it 9-3. Laskowski, Nelson, and Gregory each had 2 hits and an RBI, while Laskowski scored three runs. Bryant Schulte and Gregory combined on the moundwork for Albion, with Schulte throwing five innings to maintain his unbeaten ENL record.

ALBION AVENGES LOSS TO ORIOLES - The Albion Tigers beat the Orfordville Orioles 6-4 on Sunday, avenging their only Southeast Section loss and taking control of the tight West Division race. Matt Buhrow started on the mound and went seven innings for the win, walking nobody and allowing one earned run. Josh Eastman threw two innings to pick up the save for Albion, now 12-1 in the Southeast and holding a 2-game lead with three games to go. Orfordville struck first, earning a 2-0 lead in the first. Jesse Appel drove in Ryan Stace in the second, and the score stayed 2-1 until the fifth. Trevor Kinnett led off with a single, Casey Schmeling walked, and Aaron Laskowski gave Albion the lead with a 2-run triple to right. RBI singles from Adam Gregory, Stace, and Kyle Johnson followed to run the lead to 6-2. Orfordville would add single runs in the sixth and seventh, but could get no closer against Buhrow and Eastman.

ALBION PUMMELS MARSHALL - The Albion Tigers moved their Eastern Night League record to 6-1 with a 10-0 victory over the Marshall Firemen on Thursday night in Albion Park. Starting pitcher Adam Gregory went the distance and allowed only one hit. The

Tiger offense, aided by two hits apiece from Tim Houfe, Bryant Schulte, and Jim Eastman, exploded for nine runs in the fourth and fifth innings. Albion took the lead with an unearned run in the first, then pounced all over the Firemen in the fourth with RBIs from Schulte and Houfe. In the fifth, cousins Dan and Pete Millar had back-to-back two-run hits, and Houfe's second RBI of the game scored Pete Millar with the tenth and final run of the game.

ALBION BEATS JAYS 10-0 - The Albion Tigers held on to first place in their division of the Southeast Section with a 10-0 dismantling of the Evansville Jays Sunday in Albion Park. Matt Buhrow continued his dominance over Evansville (23 scoreless innings in his last three starts against the Jays), throwing seven scoreless innings and allowing only five hits. Bryant Schulte finished off the Jays with scoreless relief. The Tiger offense scored early and often to support Buhrow. Adam Gregory, who had four hits on the day, scored in the first on Jesse Appel's sacrifice fly to give Albion a 1-0 lead. Zach Nelson stroked an RBI triple in the fourth, and then ran the lead to 3 when he scored on a wild pitch. Gregory and Appel added RBIs in a three-run sixth, and the father-son combo of Jim and Josh Eastman had RBIs in the seventh to open the game up. Nelson, Appel, and Josh Eastman each ended up with two hits for Albion, as did Casey Schmeling and Trevor Kinnett.

TIGERS WIN MATCHUP OF FIRST-PLACE TEAMS - The Albion Tigers beat the Fort Atkinson Generals 5-1 on Sunday in Albion Park and moved to a 10-0 record in the Southeast Section. Starting pitcher Matt Buhrow threw another complete game, allowing only one run and striking out seven. The Tigers fell down 1-0 in the third, but roared back with a 3-run fifth. Adam Gregory had an RBI ground-rule double to tie the game, and Ryan Stace drove two runs home with his second double of the game. Albion tacked on two in the seventh on RBI singles from Josh Eastman and Stace. Stace led the Tigers with four hits while Gregory, Trevor Kinnett, Aaron Laskowski, and Zach Nelson each had two.

TIGERS BEAT COTTAGE GROVE 8-2 - The Albion Tigers rolled to their fifth straight win in the Eastern Night League on Thursday night with a 8-2 victory over the Cottage Grove Firemen in Albion Park. Bryant Schulte was again the winner, throwing five innings and allowing only five base-runners and one run. Josh Eastman provided two solid innings of relief as the Tigers took control of second place in the ENL. Cottage Grove struck first with an RBI triple in the second inning, but Albion responded immediately with a six-run inning of their own, highlighted by Adam Gregory's 3-run homer to deep right. Albion tacked on runs in the third and fifth on RBIs by Aaron Laskowski and Pete Millar. Gregory, Jamie Shelley, and Jim Eastman each had two hits for Albion.

TIGERS EDGE UTICA 4-3 - The Albion Tigers used the same old recipe - timely hits, flawless defense, and outstanding pitching - to earn a hard-fought 4-3 win over rival Utica on Sunday at Utica Park. Matt Buhrow threw nine innings, allowing the three runs on 7 hits and 3 walks. Buhrow struck out nine A's, including five in the last three innings with men on base. Albion drew first blood, taking a 3-0 lead in the top of the first with an RBI single from Kyle Johnson and a 2-run double by Jesse Appel. Utica bounced right back with 2 in the bottom half, and Albion answered again in the fifth on Johnson's third hit of the day. Utica tallied one in the eighth and threatened to score more, but Buhrow was able to get out of the jam with consecutive strikeouts.

GENERALS CONTROLLED BY SCHULTE - The Albion Tigers beat the Fort Atkinson Generals 4-1 in the Eastern Night League on Thursday behind a masterful performance by Bryant Schulte, who allowed only two hits in a complete game effort. Schulte, who now sports a 4-0 record in ENL games, struck out nine and walked nobody. Albion again got on the board early, as Zach Nelson hit a one-out triple in the first and scored on Adam Gregory's sacrifice fly. After Fort tied the score in the third, Albion took the lead right back in the bottom half when Aaron Laskowski led off with a single, was bunted over by Nelson, and was driven home by Gregory's single to left. Laskowski was involved again in the fourth as his two-out, two-run single plated Marty Johnson and Tim Houfe with the final runs for Albion.

BUHROW DOES IT AGAIN - Matt Buhrow threw a two-hit shutout at the Cambridge Blues and the Albion Tigers earned their eighth win in as many tries on Sunday to stay in first place in the Southeast Section's West Division. Both of Cambridge's hits came in the ninth inning, and Buhrow walked only one and struck out ten in the 4-0 Albion victory. Albion got on the board right away when Aaron Laskowski led off the game with a triple and scored on Adam Gregory's sacrifice fly to deep center. The Tigers added another run in the fifth when Jamie Shelley reached on an error, was bunted to second by Pete Millar, and then scored on Laskowski's single. The same guys were at it again in the ninth, when Albion added insurance runs on RBI singles from Laskowski and Gregory.

SCHULTE PITCHES TIGERS TO VICTORY - Bryant Schulte allowed no earned runs in six innings and got just enough help from his teammates on Thursday night to earn a hard-fought 4-3 win over the Whitewater Swingers. The win moves Albion to 3-1 in the Eastern Night League. Albion got on the board in the fourth when Trevor Kinnett doubled and was driven home by Dan Millar, then took the lead for good in the fifth. Marty Johnson and Schulte each singled and scored on a wild pitch, and Adam Gregory added the fourth run on a sacrifice fly by Kinnett.

TIGERS OUTSLUG MERCHANTS TO STAY UNDEFEATED - The Albion Tigers pounded out seventeen hits on their way to a 11-9 Southeast Section victory at Stoughton on Sunday. After falling behind 9-1 after five innings, Albion staged a furious rally in the sixth, scoring 8 runs when Ben Everson singled in his second run of the game and Adam Gregory hit a 3-run bomb to right to make the score 9-6. Ryan Stace, who had singled and scored to lead off the inning, then hit a first-pitch liner over the wall in left that tied the score at 9. Kyle Johnson doubled off the wall to drive in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and Jim Eastman provided insurance in the ninth when he drove in Everson for the Tigers' eleventh run. Gregory threw four scoreless innings of relief to earn the win, and it was Albion's fifth straight game without an error. Trevor Kinnett also added three hits, while Everson, Stace, Aaron Laskowski, and Casey Schmeling each had two hits.

BALANCED TIGER ATTACK BEATS SUN PRAIRIE - RBIs from five different Tigers and solid pitching added up to a 7-3 Eastern

Night League win Thursday night at Sun Prairie. Albion got single runs in the first and third innings on RBIs from Trevor Kinnett and Adam Gregory, and a single by Casey Schmeling and sacrifice fly from Jamie Shelley pushed the lead to 4-0 after four innings. Zach Nelson led off the fifth with his second hit of the game and came around to score on a wild pitch, just before RBIs from Schmeling and Jim Eastman ran the Albion score to 7. Bryant Schulte threw five innings for his second ENL victory before being relieved by Gregory, who struck out seven in two innings of relief.

BUHROW GIVES ALBION ANOTHER GEM - The Albion Tigers capped a busy weekend on Sunday by beating Evansville 1-0 to run their record to 6-0 in the Southeast Section. Matt Buhrow threw a complete game shutout, striking out ten while allowing only four hits to the Jays. The Tigers played error-free ball behind Buhrow, and despite only four hits were able to muster the game's only run in the ninth when Ben Everson walked, moved to third on a throwing error, and scored on Jim Eastman's sacrifice fly to left.

EASTMAN, GREGORY SHUT DOWN GRAYS - Josh Eastman and Adam Gregory combined to strike out twelve on a four-hit shutout on Saturday against the Lake Mills Grays. Eastman threw the first six innings to earn his fourth win of the year, while Gregory earned a save with three scoreless innings of his own. The win moves Albion to 5-0 in the Southeast Section's West Division. After five quick innings, Albion finally got on the board in the sixth when Zach Nelson singled home Jesse Appel with the first Tiger run. Adam Gregory and Marty Johnson had RBIs in the seventh and eighth respectively, before Albion broke it open in the ninth on Jesse Appel's RBI single and Ben Everson's 2-run double. Nelson finished the day with three of the Tigers' ten hits.

TIGERS GO 4-0 IN SOUTHEAST - The Albion Tigers ran their record to 4-0 in the Southeast Section with a 9-3 win over the Whitewater Swingers on Monday at Albion. Matt Buhrow went eight innings and struck out twelve to earn the win, and was supported by balanced offense as the Tigers banged out 12 hits. Ryan Stace, Aaron Laskowski, and Casey Schmeling each had multiple hits for Albion. After falling down 3-0, Stace got the Tigers on the board with a solo shot in the second inning, and Ben Everson's 2-run single in the fourth gave the Tigers a lead they would not relinquish. RBIs from Adam Gregory, Pete Millar, and Josh Eastman helped move the lead to 9-3 after eight innings.

TIGERS COME BACK TO BEAT JEFFERSON - After five innings on Sunday in Jefferson, the Albion Tigers found themselves down 6-2 against the undefeated Blue Devils. But only one inning later the score was 7-6 Albion, and the Tigers clamped down the rest of the way to pull out a 10-6 win. Josh Eastman went eight strong innings on the mound, allowing only one earned run to pick up his third win of the year while also contributing at the plate with 3 RBIs. Aaron Laskowski chipped in four hits and scored three runs, while Trevor Kinnett, Kyle Johnson, and Casey Schmeling each added multiple hits to the cause. It was Kyle Johnson's 2-out single in the sixth that plated Dan Millar to put Albion up for good.

TIGERS EVEN NIGHT RECORD AT 1-1 - The Albion Tigers continued their high-scoring ways on Thursday night by banging out eighteen hits on their way to a 18-4 Eastern Night League victory over the Cambridge Blues. Albion built a 9-4 lead before exploding for a nine-run seventh. Starting pitcher Bryant Schulte picked up the win, while Adam Gregory and Trevor Kinnett combined for three innings of scoreless relief.

TIGERS STAGE HIT PARADE IN MCFARLAND - Eleven different Albion Tigers combined to bang out 21 hits on Sunday on their way to a 9-3 Southeast Section win at McFarland. Josh Eastman led the way with four hits, while Casey Schmeling, Ben Everson, and Aaron Laskowski each contributed three singles. Adam Gregory hit doubles in the first and seventh innings and was good for 3 RBIs on the day. Josh Eastman also played a key role on the mound, throwing the first seven innings and allowing only three runs on five hits. He was relieved by Matt Buhrow, who threw two scoreless and struck out three Muskies to ice it for Albion, who moved to 2-0 in Southeast Section play.

TIGERS START DEFENSE OF SECTION - The Albion Tigers started defense of their Southeast Section title with a 12-0 pasting of Deerfield Sunday at Albion Park in a game that was shortened to 7 innings. Josh Eastman went the distance on the mound, striking out 12 and allowing only one hit. The Tigers struck early, jumping out to a 3-0 lead on Mike Nanstad's bases-loaded double in the first inning. Albion then broke it open with a six-run fourth, highlighted by Jim Eastman's bases-loaded two-run single into left. RBIs from Tim Houfe and Bryant Schulte helped run the score to 12-0 in the fifth inning as the Tigers coasted to their fourth straight opening-day win.